

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07286 291515Z  
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /015 W  
-----300954Z 052635 /10

R 291420Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 4499  
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS CAIRO 7286

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: EXHIBITIONS OF ANCIENT NUBIAN ART

REF: STATE 89360

1. MICHAEL BOTWINICK, DIRECTOR OF BROOKLYN MUSEUM, HAS CONFERRED WITH GOE DIRECTOR OF ANTIQUITIES DR. GAMAL MUKHTAR REGARDING REQUEST FOR LOAN OF NUBIAN ARTIFACTS. MUKHTAR TOLD HIM HE COULD NOT MAKE DECISION, RECOMMENDED BOTWINICK GO TO MINISTER WITH SUPPORTING LETTER FROM EMBASSY.

2. FYI AT SEPARATE MEETING ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, MUKHTAR ADVISED CAO THAT MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE CURRENTLY REVIEWING POLICY FOR SENDING EXHIBITS OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY. UNDERSTAND MOIC CONSIDERING REDUCING FREQUENCY OF TRAVELING EXHIBITS. IN ANY CASE SEEMS CLEAR THAT MINISTER, WHO PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED MUKHTAR'S POST HIMSELF, IS TAKING DIRECT HAND IN SUCH DECISIONS. END FYI

3. BOTWINICK ALSO CONSULTED WITH MOIC UNDERSECRETARY FOR ANTIQUITIES FOUAD ORABI, WHO HAS WORKED WITH BROOKLYN MUSEUM ON LUXOR MUSEUM PROJECT. ORABI SAID HE WOULD ARRANGE BOTWINICK PERMISSION TO BORROW NUBIAN MATERIALS IF BOTWINICK GOT EMBASSY TO WRITE LETTER TO MINISTER. PAO THEN WROTE LETTER TO MINISTER CONFIRMING HIGH REPUTATION OF BROOKLYN MUSEUM AND SAYING HE BELIEVED APPROVAL OF BROOKLYN REQUEST WOULD FURTHER  
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EGYPT'S INTERESTS IN U.S. NO DECISION YET.

4. MEANWHILE WILLIAM HARRISON, CAIRO REPRESENTATIVE OF METROPOLITAN, ATTEMPTING SECURE PERMISSION FROM MOIC FOR LOAN OF EARLY CHRISTIAN ARTIFACTS FOR EXHIBIT LATE IN 1977. HARRISON SAYS HOVING BELIEVED MUKHTAR HAD GIVEN ORAL APPROVAL TO LOAN, BUT MUKHTAR NOW SAYS HARRISON MUST APPROACH MINISTER FOR APPROVAL. MOIC

UNDERSECRETARY DR. MURSI SAAD EL-DIN HAS PROMISED TO TAKE MATTER  
UP WITH MINISTER. HARRISON SAYS HOVING ALSO IN TOUCH WITH  
AMBASSADOR GHORBAL ON IT. NO DECISION YET.

5. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE FOLLOW THESE REQUESTS AND IF NECESSARY  
CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER ASSISTANCE WE MAY PROVIDE. AS DEPARTMENT  
AWARE, ANY EXHIBIT LEAVING EGYPT MUST BE FORMALIZED BY GOVERNMENT  
AGREEMENT RHROUGH EMBASSY AS WAS CASE WITH TUTANKHAMUN TREASURES.  
EILTS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CULTURAL PROPERTY, CULTURAL EXHIBITS  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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